

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 09603 111132Z

20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-05 MC-01 AID-05 OMB-01 XMB-02 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 BIB-01 /081 W

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R 111055Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7173

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

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BRUSSELS FOR AMBASSADOR MACOMBER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF MILITARY AID CUTOFF

REF: A. ANKARA 9551 B. ANKARA 9514

1. ON DAY FOLLOWING CUTOFF OF U.S. MILITARY AID TO TURKEY, ONLY
TWO TURKISH DAILIES (MASS CIRCULATION HURRIYET AND GUNAYDIN)
GIVE FAIRLY PROMINENT COVERAGE TO REPORT FROM WASHINGTON, BASED
ON STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN DECEMBER 10, THAT AMERICAN
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 09603 111132Z

MILITARY AID TO TURKEY HAS BEEN CUT OFF AS OF DECEMBER 10, IN

ACCORDANCE WITH THE EARLIER DECISION OF THE CONGRESS. GUANYDIN ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ACCEPTS THE TWO-MONTH POSTPONEMENT OF THE CUTOFF DATE ALREADY APPROVED BY THE SENATE, MILITARY AID COULD BE RESUMED. SIMILAR REPORT WAS BROADCAST BY TURKISH RADIO NEWS AT 7:30 A.M., BUT STORY APPARENTLY CAME TOO LATE TO BE CARRIED BY OTHER DAILIES.

2. THERE IS NO EDITORIAL COMMENT AS YET, AND MATTER WAS NOT RAISED IN DECEMBER 10 SESSION OF PARLIAMENT. HURRIYET, IN REFERENCE TO A REPORT THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD AGREED TO THE CUTOFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION, QUOTED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ZEYYAT BAYKARA AS EXPRESSING DISBELIEF. NO OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAS MADE PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ASPECT OF CUTOFF.

3. MOST MAJOR DAILIES CARRY RELATED REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT U.S. AID TO TURKEY AND CYPRUS ISSUE ARE SUBJECTS EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED IN BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRIME MINISTER MELIH ESENBERG IN BRUSSELS. AT SAME TIME, THERE IS PROMINENT COVERAGE OF NEWS STORY FROM BRUSSELS REGARDING POSSIBILITY THAT SUSPENDED GERMAN MILITARY AID TO TURKEY COULD BE RESUMED SOON. PRESS ALSO NOTES THAT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEGUN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREIGN AID BILL WHICH WILL DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF U.S. AID TO TURKEY.

4. COMMENT. AS REPORTED IN REFTELS, PUBLIC REACTION TO DATE REMAINS DISPASSIONATE AND LOW-KEY. HOWEVER, NOW THAT CUTOFF HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, EDITORIAL COMMENTATORS AND PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKERS COULD BEGIN TO FOCUS ON THIS ISSUE SOON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA09603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740359-0576
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741245/aaaabmhn.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 ANKARA 9551, 74 ANKARA 9514
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF MILITARY AID CUTOFF
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EAID, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005